

Appln No. 10/510,617
Amdt date August 17, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 17, 2007.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical mixture for treating rheumatism, comprising:

Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch. 1-4 parts by weight;

Epimedium brevicornum Maxim. 1-4 parts by weight;

Lycium barbarum L. 1-4 parts by weight; and,

Cuscuta chinensis Lam., or *Cuscuta australis* R. Br., 1-4 parts by weight.

12. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, wherein

Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch. is 2 parts by weight;

Epimedium brevicornum Maxim. is 2 parts by weight;

Lycium barbarum L. is 1 part by weight; and,

Cuscuta chinensis Lam., or *Cuscuta australis* R. Br., 1 part by weight.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, comprising:

providing and cutting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into pieces;

providing and cutting the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into pieces;

providing and optionally crushing the *Lycium barbarum* L;

providing and optionally crushing the *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam;

~~—[optionally combining two or more of the herbs to make an herb mixture;]~~

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extracting the ~~[herb mixture or individual herbs]~~ *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.), *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim, *Lycium barbarum* L, and *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam, separately or in combination, in a 0 to 95% alcohol/water mixture, at a temperature in the range of 1 to 98 °C, 1 to 4 times, to form one or more extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;

optionally mixing the extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;

recovering the extracted liquor(s) from the extracted liquor(s)/alcohol mixtures;

condensing, drying, and smashing the extracted liquor(s) to form extracted herb powders;

and,

mixing the extracted herb powders uniformly or proportionally to form a pharmaceutical mixture.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, comprising:

weighing the raw herbs according to the specified parts by weight;

cutting *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into pieces;

cutting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into pieces;

decocting the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim pieces with water three times;

decocting the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch pieces with water three times;

immersing each of *Lycium barbarum* L or *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam in water at a temperature in the range of 80°C ~ 95°C for 1 to 3 times respectively;

blending the decocted and immersed herbs to form a mixed fluid,

loading the decocted or immersed fluid from each herb on a corresponding macroporous polymeric adsorbent column;

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absorbing each decocted or immersed fluid onto the corresponding macropore polymeric absorbent column;

washing each resin column with water until effluent becomes clear,

eluting each resin column with 30-99.5% alcohol to form an eluting liquor;

collecting the eluting liquor while the color ranges from a deep color to a very weak color;

forcing alcohol out of the column with water;

mixing the alcohol with the eluting liquor, wherein the weight of total eluent is 1 to 8 times the weight of the raw herbs;

recovering all 4 of the eluting liquors from the alcohol;

separately condensing all 4 of the eluting liquors to a specific ~~density~~ gravity of 1.10;

spray drying each of the condensed eluting liquors to form extracted herb powders; and,

mixing the herb powders to form the pharmaceutical mixture.

15. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, wherein the mixture is in the form of a hard capsule, soft capsule, tablet, granule, or injectable liquid.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing the pharmaceutical mixture according to claim 11, comprising:

providing and cutting *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch into ~~small~~ pieces;

extracting from the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch three times with water a decoction fluid, wherein the weight of the water used in the three extractions is, respectively, 13, 10, and 10 times the weight of the ~~un-extracted herb respectively~~ *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.) Hutch prior to extraction, with each extraction lasting 1 hour;

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providing and cutting *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim into segments;
extracting from the *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim three times with water a decoction fluid, wherein the weight of the water used in the three extractions is, respectively, 15, 10, 10 times the weight of the ~~[un-extracted herb respectively]~~ *Epimedium brevicornum* prior to extraction, with each extraction lasting 1 hour;
crushing *Lycium barbarum* L to a ~~[coarse]~~ powder and immersing the powder in 20 times by weight of water, at 80°C-95°C for 1 hour;
crushing *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam to a coarse powder and immersing the powder in 31 times by weight of water, at 90°C for 1 hour;
filtering the decoction fluid or immersion fluid of ~~[four herbs]~~ each of the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.), *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim, *Lycium barbarum* L, and *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam separately;
pouring each filtered fluid through a macroporous polymeric adsorbent resin column;
eluting each column with 70% ethanol until the color of effluent becomes deep;
continuously collecting the effluent until the color of the effluent becomes very weak;
recovering the alcohol in the effluent of ~~[each herb]~~ the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.), *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim, *Lycium barbarum* L, and *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam;
concentrating and drying the remaining fluid of ~~[each herb]~~ the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.), *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim, *Lycium barbarum* L, and *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam to form ~~[an extract powder from each herb]~~ separate extract powders;
concentrating and drying the remaining fluid of ~~[each herb]~~ the *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (Levl.), *Epimedium brevicornum* Maxim, *Lycium barbarum* L, and *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam and,

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mixing the extract [~~powder from each herb~~] powders uniformly and proportionally to form a pharmaceutical mixture.

Claims 17-18 (Cancelled)